

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
IGA-02 AGRE-00 /085 W
-----292219Z 025076 /67

R 292105Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416
DEA HQS WASHDC
INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 16206

DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR MX
SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION CAMPAIGN PLANNING UNDERWAY

1. SAMUEL ALBA-LEYVA, SECOND DEPUTY AG AND NARCOTICS COORDINATOR OF AG'S OFFICE , REQUESTED MEETING EVENING DEC. 23 WITH MISSION NARCOTICS TEAM. MISSION REPRESENTED BY NARCOTICS ATTACHE KIERE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DEPUTY, SAUCEDO, AND TRIZO COORDINATOR WOOD, AVIATION ADVISOR FORD AND SEPCIAL ASSISTANT MCLAUGHLIN. WITH ALBA-LEYVA WERE NEW AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER (FERNANDO BAEZE-MELENDEZ), NEW CHIEF OF MFJP (GENERAL RAUL MENDOILEA-CERECERO), AG ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (MARIANO MANCERA-SUAREZ), AG AVIATION OPERATIONS HEAD (RICARDO ABUNDIZ-GUZMAN) AND TWO UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIALS.

2. ALBA-LAYVA OPENED MEETING BY PRESENTING MISSION REPS COPY OF AG PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR UPCOMING ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, WHICH WILL RESUME JAN. 3. AG ADMIN OFFICER THEN OUTLINED ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE, INCLUDING ORDERING OF FULL MONTH'S SUPPLY OF HERBICIDE TO ARRIVE AT EACH BASE THIS WEEK. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT YET ANAL-
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LYZED ALL PLANNING DOCUMENTS, BUT THEIR BULK ALONE IS IMPRESSIVE. THEY INCOLUDE PROPOSED PLAN-OF-ATTACK AND ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS PREPARED BY EACH MEXICAN COORDINATOR FOR DURANGO, URUAPAN, JUAREZ, MONTERREY, OAXACA, ACAPULCO, GUADLAJARA AND CULIACAN. ALSO INCOUDED ARE SPREAD SHEETS SHOWING ASSIGNED LOCATIONS OF ALL AG AIRCRAFT AND CAMPAIGN PERSONNEL, FROM ZONE

COMMANDERS TO HELICOPTER CLEANERS, AND SUMMARY SHEETS ON AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS TO DATE.)

3. MISSION REPS WERE PROMISED DAILY REPORTS OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES TOGETHER WITH "CATCH-UP" REPORT FOR ERADICATION ACTIVITIES SINCE DEPARTURE OF TRIZO PERSONNEL IN LATE NOVEMBER. NARCOTICS ATTACHE CONFIRMED THAT TRIZO PERSONNEL WILL RETURN TO MEXICO ON JAN. 17.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER THEN DISCUSSED AG PROPOSAL TO TRADE-IN CESSNA CITATION, THREE OLD HILLER HELICOPTERS, REMAINING PILATUS PORTER, AND OLDEST AEROCOMMANDER. PROCEEDS OF SALE, TOGETHER WITH DOLS 500,000 OBLIGATED UNDER AGREEMENT OF 29 JANUARY 1976 BUT NOT YET UTILIZED, WOULD BE USED TO FAINANCE LARGER AND FASTER JET AIRCRAFT TO MOVE PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES. HE ALSO SAID THAT AG PERCEIVES NEED FOR ONE ADDITIONAL BELL 212 AND FIVE ADDITIONAL BELL 206'S. MISSION REPS SUGGESTED THAT THESE PROPOSALS BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY BY AVIATION ADVISOR AND AG REP IN CHARGE OF AVIATION. ALBA-LEYVA SAID DISCUSSION SHOULD BE HELD WITH SALVADOR MARISCAL-FLORES AND ALBERTO SALINAS-DUQUE. AVIATION ADVISOR WILL INITIATE DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

5. DEPUTY NARCOTICS ATTACHE NOTED THAT, WHILE DOLS 500,000 MENTIONED ABOVE WAS INDEED INTENDED FOR AVIATION REQUIREMENTS, WE HAD HAD INDICATIONS THAT PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION PREFERRED TO USE FUNDS TO PROVIDE COMPUTER SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNIT. ALBA-LEYVA REPLIED THAT AG DOES NOT NEED COMPUTER AS IT CAN OBTAIN NO-COST TIME SHARING OF OTHER MEXICAN FEDERAL COMPUTERS WHICH ARE UNDERUTILIZED, ADDING THAT AG INTENDS TO
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PROCEED IN THIS DIRECTION AFTER THE MORE URGENT ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN UNDERWAY. MISSION REPS OFFERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUCH AS COMPUTER PROGRAMMING WHEN AG READY TO PROCEED AND INVITED ALBA-LEYVA AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TO VISIT EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER (EPIC).

6. ALBA-LEYVA SAID HE HAD RECEIVED AG'S PERMISSION TO DIRECT ERADICATION CAMPAIGN THROUGH FREQUENT VISITS TO THE FIELD AND ANNOUNCED THAT HIS FIRST VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE WEEK OF JAN. 10. HE INVITED MISSION REPS TO ACCOMPANY HIM. EXECUTIVE OFFICER ADDED THAT EACH FIELD ELEMENT WOULD ALSO HAVE AN ADMIN OFFICER ON SITE WHO COULD EXPEDITE LOCAL PURCHASES WITHOUT REFERRAL TO MEXICO CITY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 16206

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

7. ALBA-LEYVA THEN REFERRED TO EARLIER MEETING WITH DEPUTY NARCOTICS ATTACHE AND REQUESTED THAT MISSION CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FRANK EVALUATIONS OF PERSONNEL KNOWN TO BE CORRUPT. HE ASKED ONLY THAT INFORMATION BE SPECIFIC SO THAT AG WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION.

8. ONLY DETAILED POINT DISCUSSED DURING MEETING CONCERNED PREFABRICATED HANGAR AT CULIACAN, WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD MENTIONED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL AS HIGH-PRIORITY ITEM. AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAID WORK WOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH FEBRUARY 28 TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION.

9. SPECIAL ASSISTANT NOTED THAT AG PLANNED SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MFJP PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CULIACAN AREA AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS INDICATED AG ALSO PLANNED INCREASED SECURITY ON MAZATLAN-CULIACAN HIGHWAY WHERE THERE HAS BEEN DISTURBING NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMERICAN TOURISTS. ALBA-LEYVA
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INDICATED HE HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS PROBLEM BUT ADDED THAT HE WOULD INFORM ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CONCERN.

10. AT CLOSE OF MEETING ALBA-LEYVA REQUESTED MEETING WITH DEPUTY NARCOTICS ATTACHE ON FOLLOWING DAY TO PURSUE TOPICS DISCUSSED WITH HIM MORNING OF DEC 23 (CORRUPT OFFICIALS, INTELLIGENCE, JOINT PROSECUTIONS, ETC.). SUBSTANCE THESE MEETINGS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

11. COMMENT: MISSION REPS WERE ENCOURAGED BY EXTENT OF GOM PLANNING THAT HAS GONE INTO CAMPAIGN PREPARATIONS AND BELIEVE THAT CAMPAIGN HAS GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING UNDERWAY ON SCHEDULE. PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH ALBA-LEYVA IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE GOOD GRASP OF THE PROBLEMS FACING HIM, BUT THIS MEETING SUGGESTED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF ARE BEGINNING TO FACE THE PROBLEM REALISTACLLY.
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